

REMARKS

The last office action has been carefully considered.

New claims 43-45 have been added herein. Support for this feature can be found on page 8, bottom paragraph of the present disclosure. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter into the present application.

Claim 26 is rejected over Esposito in view of Schaeffeler (the '268 patent). Claims, 3-5, 7, 8, 21 and 27-34 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin-Fu in view of Lebensfeld et al. Claims 6, 12-17, 40 and 41 are rejected over Chin-Fu, and Lebensfeld et al and Greenberg et al. Claims 12, 13, 38 and 39 are rejected over Esposito and Lebensfeld et al and Greenberg et al. Claims 9-11, 35 and 36 are rejected over Chin-Fu in view of Lebensfeld et al and Minoura et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in pertinent part that:

the switch plates each have a longitudinal axis and one of the switch plates is adapted to slidably move in a direction along its longitudinal axis with respect to the longitudinal axis of another of the switch plates.

For the same reasons advanced below and for similar amendatory language thereto Independent claims 12 and 26 believed to define over the cited references of the last office action.

The '268 patent cited by the Examiner in rejecting independent claim 26 in the last office action the examiner reasoned that the '268 patent taught confronting switch plates (15, 18) and second switch plates (15', 18') that are slidably coupled to each other and that the first and second switch plates have a longitudinal axis (see Page 3 of the office action). It is respectfully submitted that there is no such disclosure in the '268 patent. Claim 26 does not disclose or suggest the aforementioned feature

The sliding member disclosed in the '268 patent is element 13 .which is movable in a guide 14 on the slide 7. Elements 18, 18' are stops ate ach extension 15, 15'. These elements are not sliding switch plates nor does the reference appear to disclose any switch plates that are slidable coupled to each other.

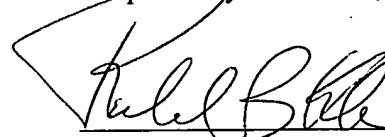
Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that Esposito in combination with the '268 patent or any other combination of the references cited in the last office action does not teach or suggest this claimed feature in independent claims 1,12 and 26. It is therefore respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims and the rest of the claims which depend thereon, by virtue of their dependencies on allowable claims, be passed to issue.

In view of the arguments made it is believed that all pending claims as currently presented are now in condition for allowance.

According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below in the event that a telephone interview will advance the prosecution of this application.

Allowance of the claims remaining in the present application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Klar", is written over a horizontal line.

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